

# A Midnight Touch

At an Unlicens'd Pamphlet,

CALLED,

*A Vindication of the Arch-Bishop, and several other Bishops.*

WE do justly term and esteem him, who Abdicated the Throne, no other than *the late King*; yet we find in the Paper, this day published; *Five Clergy-men*, in defiance of an Act of Parliament, calling themselves, *W. Cant. W. Norwich, F. Ely, Tho. Bath and Wells, Tho. Peterburgh*. It would have given great offence, if there had been added, *Richard Baxter Rector of Kederminster*; yet a good Lawyer affirmed in a Coffe-house but two hours since, that he hath as good a title to *Kederminster* as the other five have to the Names which they assume to themselves, and presume to write, and that they ought only to have subscribed *William Sancroft, William Loyd, Francis Turner, Tho. Ken. and Thomas White*, late Bishops (if they pleased.)

It is as certain that there is a third Plot, as that there is a New Liturgy; and that there is a *Lambeth Club*, the Paper now published confesses; but whether Holy or not, I know not; and for ought I know the inserting that Epethete (holy) both to theirs and the *Jacobite*, or Devil-Tavern-Club, may be a good reason for saying 'tis Abusive.

It seems by their Paper, that they are put under a necessity of holding Meetings (or Conventicles) at *Lambeth*, in their present difficulties; to advise how to keep good Consciences; which looks as tho' 'twere no easie thing to them to do it.

Indeed, They tell us; that they heartly and incessantly pray for the *Peace, Prosperity and Glory of England*, (which is well, tho' as to the words we find them not in their Liturgy) and Methinks we want the Addition of these words under the *Auspicious Government of our dread Sovereign Lord and Lady, King William and Queen Mary*.

We are not to seek for their meaning, when they talk of *bearing their Cross*; but their prating of seeking the *good of their Native Country*; is so ambiguous and uncertain, that for ought I know, should *Mareschal D. Humiers* come, (which God forbid) *W. C.* would call for the Keys, which he delivered to my *L. L.* and put them into his Hands; and then conclude that he had done the *Church* and his Country a great piece of service.

I do think that 'twas not so much for the sake of Wit or Honesty, as for the well understood word (as they call it) *de Witting*; that their Vindication was published; and therefore, I declare, that, rather than see the Throne of our *rightful and lawful King and Queen* (who now possess it) overthrown; I shall rejoyce to see all who refuse to Pray and Fight for its support, *de Vvitted*.

Their late Reverences declare themselves ready to sacrifice their All to prevent Popery and the *Arbitrary Power of France from prevailing over them*; for they have the Persecution of the *French Protestants* fresh in their Memories.

'Twere to be wisht, that these *Non-Resisting and Non-Assisting Gentlemen*; would now (in their difficulties, and whilst under the Cross) when they tell us that they remember the Persecution of the *French Protestants*, acknowledge the Error and wickedness of their Persecuting those of England; for till they do so, there are a Censorious sort of People amongst us, who will conclude, that tho' some of our *Clergy-men*, would not have the *Arbitrary Power of France* to prevail over them; yet that they do wish and hope, by that Power, to prevail over, and yet again to trample upon *English Protestants*.

When *Mr Randal Taylor* emits his next Paper, which is to declare the *Absent Brother of Gloucester's* concurrence, I shall endeavour to read it at a more seasonable hour, and to find a little more leisure than I now have, to speak to this Point.